

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARAMA 01247 231846Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 /037 W
-----094913 231850Z /53

R 231820Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3859
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

UNCLAS PARAMARIBO 1247

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OVIP(TODMAN, TERENCE A.)
SUBJ: TODMAN VISIT

REF: STATE 280153

1. FOLLOWING IS DRAFT TOAST FOR TODMAN'S USE AT DINNER
NOV 30 AT WHICH MINISTER PRESIDENT ARRON WILL BE PRINCIPAL
FOREIGN GUEST. TEXT IS SUPPLIES AS REQUESTED, BUT THIS IS
A VERY INFORMAL COUNTRY AND OFF-THE-CUFF REMARKS WILL GO
OVER BETTER THAN ANYTHING THAT SOUNDS LIKE A PREPARED
STATEMENT. (DINNER WILL BE STAG IN SENSE OF NO SPOUSES
AS SUCH BUT THERE WILL BE TWO LADY GUESTS PRESENT.)

2. QUOTE: MR. MINISTER PRESIDENT, MINISTER SOEPERMAN,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I HAVE BEEN WANTING TO VISIT SURINAM
SINCE I TOOK ON MY PRESENT DUTIES AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OF STATE FOR THIS AREA. UNFORTUNATELY, OR I REALLY SHOULD
MORE PROPERLY SAY FORTUNATELY, THERE HAVE NOT BEEN ANY
PROBLEMS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES WHICH REQUIRED ME TO RUSH
DOWN HERE AND PUT OUT ANY FIRES. IT HAS NEVERTHELESS
BEEN MY INTENTION TO VISIT EVERY ONE OF THE COUNTRIES FOR
WHICH I BEAR RESPONSIBILITY IN THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT,
AND I AM VERY HAPPY INDEED THAT I HAVE FINALLY BEEN ABLE
TO VISIT THIS HOSPITABLE LAND. I AM ONLY SORRY THAT MY
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VISIT WILL BE SO SHORT, BUT I ASSURE YOU THAT THIS BREVITY
IN NO WAY REFLECTS A LACK OF INTEREST IN YOUR AFFAIRS OR
LACK OF APPERCIATION FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTER-
AMERICAN SYSTEM.

3. QUOTE: SURINAM AND THE UNITED STATES, AND SURINAMERS
AND AMERICANS, SHARE CERTAIN HISTORICAL EXPERIENCES AND

MANY POLICY OBJECTIVES. YOUR COUNTRY WAS AMONG THE VERY FIRST TO WHICH THE NEW UNITED STATES SENT A REPRESENTATIVE AFTER OUR INDEPENDENCE, AND MY COUNTRY WAS ONE TO WHICH YOU SENT AN AMBASSADOR WHEN YOU BECAME INDEPENDENT. ALTHOUGH TWO CENTURIES SEPARATE THE DATES OF OUR INDEPENDENCE, THOSE TWO CENTURIES WERE FULL OF COMMON EVENTS AND COMMON CAUSES. EUROPEAN COUNTRIES FOUGHT OVER OUR TERRITORIES, BUT THEN THE POLITICAL TIES WITH THE FORMER MOTHER COUNTRIES WERE CUT, THERE REMAINED NOT HATE AND BITTERNESS BUT FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION. IF ONE HAD TO HAVE A COLONIAL MASTER, PERHAPS WE WERE BOTH FORTUNATE IN OUR CHOICES.

4. QUOTE: AND BOTH OF OUR NATIONS HAVE KNOWN THE HISTORY OF SLAVERY, THE BONDAGE WHICH ENVELOPED BOTH MASTER AND SLAVE, AND THE BEGINNING OF LIBERATION THAT CAME WHEN AN END WAS FINALLY BUT TO THIS SHAMEFUL DEGRADATION OF MAN. SOME OF US, SOME OF YOU AND I, ARE DESCENDANTS OF SLAVES, AND I THINK IT IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTS IN THE WORLD TODAY THAT WE HAVE DEMONSTRATED IN BOTH OUR COUNTRIES THAT SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS CAN EXIST, IN FREEDOM AND WITH FULL REGARD FOR THE DIGNITY OF ALL MEN, THAT GIVE EVERY CITIZEN HIS SAY IN THE GOVERNMENT OF HIS COUNTRY AND HIS OPPORTUNITY FOR A RICH AND PRODUCTIVE LIFE.

5. QUOTE: IN OUR RELATIONS WITH EACH OTHER, SURINAM AND
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THE UNITED STATES HAVE SHOWN THE KIND OF MUTUAL RESPECT AND UNDERSTANDING THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE APPLIED TO ALL INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. IN THAT MOST IMPORTANT OF INTERNATIONAL FORUMS THE UNITED NATIONS, AND WE HAVE WORKED FOR THE SAME OBJECTIVES EVEN IF WE DO NOT ALWAYS HAVE THE SAME IDEAS AS TO HOW TO ATTAIN THOSE OBJECTIVES. AS OUR NATIONS PROCEED DOWN THE ROAD OF FUTURE HISTORY, THERE IS NO REASON WHY WE SHOULD NOT GO SIDE BY SIDE, AND I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES WILL ALWAYS BE READY TO GIVE, AND HOPE TO RECEIVE, THE BENEFITS OF COMMON INTERESTS, OF TRADE, AND OF HUMAN INTERCOURSE AND UNDERSTANDING THAT ARE THE BEST HOPE OF MANKIND. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I ASK YOU TO RISE AND JOIN ME IN DRINKING TO THE LONG LIFE, HEALTH AND HAPPINESS OF MINISTER PRESIDENT ARRON, AND TO THE FRIENDSHIP OF THE PEOPLES OF SURINAM AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. ZURHELLEN

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 23-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: OVIP, (TODMAN, TERENCE A)
To: PORT OF SPAIN
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